



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

October 15, 2003

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Policy Manager
RE: DRAFT OUTLINE OF 2004 STATE HEALTH REPORT

Background and Summary

Since 1990, the State Board of Health has been responsible for producing a biennial State Health Report that “outlines the health priorities of the ensuing biennium.” RCW 43.20.050(1)(b) stipulates the report must be produced in January of even numbered years and that the governor must approve, modify, or disapprove it. If approved, the report agency administrators are to use the report as a guide for preparing agency budgets and executive request legislation for the following biennium—in this case FY 2005-2006.

The 2002 version of the report differed significantly from the previous years’ in length, format, and content. It also was produced for the first time in collaboration with the Governor’s Subcabinet on Health. I intend to follow a similar process this year and anticipate a report that is similar in format and content to the 2002 edition. To date, Board members and staff members have:

1. Met with a designated representative of Health Care Authority Administrator Peter Cutler, who will co-sign the report as chair of the Subcabinet.
2. Met twice with the Agency Medical Directors Group, which meets more regularly than the Subcabinet and is directly involved in recommending policy.
3. Met with about a third of the state’s local boards of health to seek their input.
4. Attended several Community Roundtables forums held by the Washington Health Foundation.
5. Sent a letter to the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials, requesting an opportunity to address local public health leaders about the report.
6. Sent a letter to the directors of health-related agencies not on the Subcabinet (Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ecology and Agriculture) soliciting input.
7. Requested a list of recommended projects from the Department of Health, as well as relevant studies, reports, and other data.

This early work has led to the development of a preliminary report outline (attached). I have asked for time on today’s agenda so I could answer any questions about the process and to review the outline. This is also an opportunity for the Board to discuss which issues they would like to see addressed in the report. This is not an action item but I would like a sense of the Board about whether it is comfortable with the proposed process and early suggestions about structure and content.

The Board will see an early draft of the report in December and will be asked to consider adopting a final draft at its January 2004 meeting.

Recommended Board Action

None

Attachment